Problems of fruit, vegetable and flower growers

*95. SHRIKRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of fruit, vegetable and the floriculture items during each of the last three years;

(b) whether Government are aware of the problems being faced by the producers thereof;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether they have ceased to produce these commodities; and

(d) if so, the measures taken by Government to encourage production of these items particularly for export?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) The available details of production of fruits, vegetables and floriculture items in the country during the last three years are given in the table below:—

Production of Fruits, Vegetables and Flowers in India

Item	Production (000 tonnes)		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Fruits	43263	44042	45490
Vegetables	72683	87536	90830
Flowers	—	—	—
Loose	366	419	509
Cut (Lakh No.)	6222	6428	6806

The Government is aware about the problems being faced by the producers of fruits, vegetables and flowers. The Working Group on Horticulture constituted by the Planning Commission for the Tenth Five Year Plan have identified various constraints in the development of horticulture. Some of the major constraints identified are inadequate availability of disease free quality planting material, slow dissemination and adaptability of improved high yielding cultivars/hybrids, inadequate

facility for identification of nutrient deficiency and disorders, inadequacy of technologies in value addition, inadequate post harvest management infrastructure, weak database and poor market intelligence, instability of price, and poor credit support. Despite the constraints, the farmers have not stopped the cultivation of fruits, vegetables and flowers and the production has increased. The Government has been addressing these issues through various plan schemes. With effect from October, 2000, nine schemes on horticulture development were subsumed under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plans. The list of schemes subsumed under the Macro Management Scheme is given in Statement *(See* below). The scheme provides flexibility to the State Governments to take up programmes as per the fell needs and requirement of the crop and region including crops which have potential for export. Besides, the National Horticulture Board is addressing the issues of commercial horticulture and post harvest management needs under their schemes on (i) Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management, and (ii) Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Modernization/Expansion of Cold Storage and Storages for Horticultural Produce. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce and Industry is also implementing various programmes such as schemes for survey, feasibility, consultancy and data base upgradation, schemes for infrastructure development, packaging development, quality control, organisation building and human resource development export promotion and market development, and also scheme for relevant research for promoting exports. APEDA is also facilitating the establishment of Agri-Export Zones (AEZ) in various parts of the country for promoting exports of horticulture produce including fruit, vegetables and flowers.

Statement

Schemes on Horticulture subsumed under the Macro Management Scheme

1. Integrated Development of Fruits.
2. Integrated Development of Vegetables, including Root and Tuber Crops.

3. Development of Commercial Floriculture.

4. Integrated Development of Mushroom.

5. Integrated Development of Spices.

6. Integrated Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants.

7. Integrated Development of Cashew and Cocoa.

8. Development of Horticulture through Plasticulture Intervention.

9. Development of Bee-keeping for Improving Crop Productivity.

Wildlife parks in Tamil Nadu

* 96. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of national wildlife parks in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether Government are aware of ample scope for development of small sanctuaries into wildlife parks in that State;

(c) if so, whether any step has been taken in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORES fG (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The details of national parks in Tamil Nadu are as follows:

Sl.No.	Name of the National Parks	Area in Sq. Km.
1.	Indira Gandhi	117.10
2.	Mudumalai	103.23
3.	Mukurthi	78.48
4.	Guindy	2.82
5.	Gulf of Mannar	6.23

(b) to (d) Report entitled "Planning a Protected Area Network in India" brought out by Wilt life Institute of India and adopted by Indian Board for